

A personal statement
before the canned
one:

It is difficult to
believe in an
impartial FCC when
it is run by the son
of an administration
official. However,
nepotism in politics
is certainly nothing
new, and I do not
personally know of
reasons why Michael
Powell is not
qualified.

But in this
instance, the
abrogation of the
basic tenets of
fairness leads me to
no other conclusion
than the FCC is
hamstrung by
explicit or
self-imposed filial
duty to the current
administration.

I urge you do to the
very least you can
to maintain fragile
faith in our free
and fair democracy
by requiring
Sinclair to provide
equal time, or by
preventing them from
airing the partisan
documentary.

Were they to do this
in the guise of
regularly scheduled
programming, they
would simply be
another FOX "News",
but to demand local
stations pre-empt
regular programming
can be nothing other
than a cynical and
apparently tacitly
approved strong-arm
fascist tactic.

For shame. Even if
Michael has no
scruples, don't you?

Sinclair
Broadcasting's
decision to force

their stations to
air an anti-Kerry
documentary days
before the election
is a clear example
of the dangers of
media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the
public airwaves free
of charge, and is
obligated by law to
serve the public
interest. But when
large companies
control the
airwaves, we get
more of what's good
for the bottom line
and less of what we
need for our
democracy. Instead
of something
produced at "News
Central" far away,
it's more important
that we see real
people from our own
communities and more
substantive news
about issues that
matter.

Sinclair's actions
show why we need to
strengthen media
ownership rules, not
weaken them. They
show why the license
renewal process
needs to involve
more than a returned
postcard. Thank you.